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The Universal Instructor in all Arts and Sciences:

AND

PENNSYLVANIA GAZETTE

To be continued Weekly. *The 4th of the 7th Month*, 1729.

AIR

Effects of the peculiar Ingredients of the Air.

AIR not only acts by its common Properties of Gravity and Elasticity, but there are numerous other Effects, arising from the peculiar Ingredients whereof it consists.

Thus, *1st*, it not only dissolves and attenuates Bodies by its Pressure and Attrition; but as a Chaos, containing all Kind of Menstruums, and consequently having wherewithal to dissolve all Kinds of Bodies.

'Tis known, that Iron and Copper readily dissolve, and become rusty in Air, unless well defended with Oil. *Boerhave* assures us, he has seen Pillars of Iron so reduced by Air, that one might crumble 'em to Dust between the Finger; and for Copper, it is converted by the Air into a Substance much like the Verdegreale produced by Vinegar.

Mr. *Boyle* relates, that in the Southern *English* Colonies, the great Guns rust so fast, that after a few Years lying in the Air, large Cakes of Crocus Martis may be easily beat off 'em. *Acosta* adds, that in *Peru* the Air dissolves Lead, and considerably encreases its Weight. Yet Gold is generally esteem'd Indissolulible by Air; being never found to contract Rust, tho' exposed never so long. The Reason hereof is, that Sea-salt, which is the only Menstruum capable of acting on Gold, being very difficult to volatilize, there is but a small Proportion of it in the Atmosphere. In the Chymists Laboratories, where Aqua Regia is preparing, the Air becoming impregnated with an unusual Quantity of this Salt, Gold contracts a Rust like other Bodies.

Stones also undergo the common Fate of Metals. Thus *Purbeck* Stone, whereof *Salisbury* Cathedral consists, is observed gradually to become softer, and moulder away in the Air; and the like Mr. *Boyle* relates of *Blackington* Stone. He adds, that Air may have a notable Operation upon Vitriol, even when a strong Fire can act no further on it. The same Author has even found the Fumes of a sharp Liquor to work more suddenly and manifestly on a certain Metal, when sustained in the Air, than the Menstruum it self did which emitted those Fumes, on those Parts of the Metals it cover'd.

2. Air volatilizes fix'd Bodies. Thus Sea-salt being first calcined, then fused by the Fire, and when fused, exposed to the Air to liquify; when liquified, set to dry again, then fused again; and the Operation thus repeated, will by degrees be almost wholly evaporated, nothing remaining but a little Earth behind.

Helmont mentions it as a mighty Arcanum in Chymistry, to render fixed Salts of Tartar volatile; but the Thing is easily effected by Air alone; for if some of this Salt be exposed to the Air in a Place replete with acid Vapours, the Salt draws the Acid to it self, and when saturated therewith, is volatile.

3. Air also fixes volatile Bodies. Thus tho' Nitre or Aqua fortis readily evaporate by the Fire, yet if there be any putrified Urine near the Place, the volatile Spirit will be fix'd, and fall down in form of Aqua secunda.

4. Add, that Air brings many quiescent Bodies into Action, *i. e.* excites their latent Powers. Thus, if an acid Vapour be diffused thro' the Air, all the Bodies whereof that is a proper Menstruum, being dissolved thereby, are brought into a state proper for Action.

In Chymistry, not only the Presence or Absence of the Air, but even its being barely open, or inclosed, is of great Consequence. Thus, Camphire fired in a close Vessel, runs wholly into Salts; whereas, if during the Process, the Cover be removed, and a Candle applied, the whole flies off in Fume. So to make Sulphur inflammable, it requires a free Air: In a close Cucurbit, it may be sublimed a thousand times without kindling. Sulphur being put under a Glass-Bell, and a Fire applied, rises into Spirit of Sulphur *per Campanum*: But if there be the least Chink whereby the included Air communicates with the Atmosphere, it immediately kindles. So an Ounce of Charcoal, inclosed in a Crucible well luted, will remain without Loss for fourteen Days in the intensest Heat of a melting Furnace; tho' the thousandth Part of the Fire in open Air, will presently turn it into Ashes. *Helmont* adds, that the Charcoal remains all that while without any Alteration of its black Colour; but if the minute Air is let in, it falls instantly into white Ashes. The same holds of the Parts of all Animals and Vegetables; which can only be calcined in open Air: In close Vessels, they never become any other than black Coals.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Hague, June 12. We hear from Brussels, that the Ostend East-India Company has laid aside their Design of fitting out any more Ships till 'twas known what Turn Affairs would take, as to Peace or War. The

The following authentick Relation being ſent to the Printer hereof by Sir *Richard Blackmore*, we here inſert it, as a Piece of Foreign News.

Father Nicolo *of* Narni *was a celebrated Preacher, and had generally a quick Eye in the Pulpit over the Female Part of his Audience. He was one Day preaching at* Catanea *in* Sicily, *when among the reſt of his Auditory, he ſpy'd out a very agreeable young Woman, named* Agatha, *Wife to one* Ruggieri, *a Phyſician, and was immediately enamour'd with her Beauty. The Lady was ſo devout, . . to have her Eye conſtantly fix'd on the Preacher, and could not help perceiving that he was handſome, nor wiſhing ſecretly that her Husband were no leſs agreeable. After Sermon ſhe addreſs'd her ſelf to Father* Nicolo *for Confeſſion, who was over-joy'd at this lucky Opportunity of diſcovering his Paſſion.* Agatha *had ſoon diſpatch'd the Account of her own Sins; after which ſhe very generouſly confeſs'd for her Husband too, and asked the Holy Man,* if he had no Cure for an old Man's Jealouſy? *The Father reply'd,* That Jealouſy was a Paſſion not to be avoided by the happy Perſon who poſſeſs'd ſo divine a Creature. Agatha *ſmil'd, and thinking it Time to return to ſome Female Friends who were waiting for her, deſir'd Abſolution. The Confeſſor ſigh'd, and leering on her with a languiſhing Look,* My fair Daughter, ſays he, who can free another that is bound himſelf? I'm chain'd by the irreſiſtible Power of your Beauty; and without your Aſſiſtance I can neither abſolve my ſelf nor you. Agatha *was young and unexperienc'd, yet by the Help of a good natural Apprehenſion, ſhe was not at a Loſs to unravel the Meaning of theſe Words: She had beſides, to quicken her Wit, been ſtrictly guarded and uſed by Doctor* Ruggieri. *She therefore ſoon let the Father ſee that ſhe underſtood him, and that ſhe was not diſpleas'd to find, notwithſtanding the Sanctity of his Character, that he was Fleſh and Blood. The Buſineſs of the Abſolution was now forgot: Father* Nicolo *preſſed his Paſſion; and at his earneſt Requeſt, the Lady undertook to find Means that he ſhould make her a Viſit. After a ſhort Pauſe, ſhe acquainted him, in Order to this, that ſhe was troubled with Fits, and that all the Medicines her Husband could adminiſter, procur'd her no Eaſe;* therefore, *ſaid ſhe,* the next Time he is ſent for into the Country, I'll feign my ſelf ſeiz'd with my uſual Diſtemper, and ſend to you to bring ſome Relick of St. *Griffon* for my Relief. You will, I ſuppoſe, comply with the Summons, and one of my faithful Maids ſhall be ready to conduct you to my Chamber. *The Father applauded her Wit, pronounc'd a thouſand Bleſſings on her for this happy Invention, embrac'd her rapturouſly in his Arms, and thus they parted.*

Honeſt Ruggieri, *who dreamt nothing of what had paſs'd, went very opportunely out of Town the next Morning. The Lady was immediately ſeiz'd with a terrible Fit, and in the midſt of her Attendants, who were officious in helping her, frequently call'd on the Name of* St. Griffon, *for Aſſiſtance. The crafty Confident that ſtood by, and was intruſted with the Secret, took the Hint, and preſs'd her to ſend for the Relicks of that Saint, which ſhe ſaid were famous for their miraculous Virtue and wonderful Cures. The Miſtreſs, who ſeem'd ſcarce able to utter her Words, bid her do as ſhe thought fit. Father* Nicolo *preſently had Notice, and obey'd the Summons with the utmoſt Expedition.*

The Father now arrived, and following his Female Guide, enter'd the Room where the afflicted Lady lay, and drew near her Bed-ſide with a becoming Gravity. Agatha *receiv'd him with profound Reverence, and begg'd the Charity of his prevailing Prayers to Heaven and* St. Griffon. *He exhorted her to prepare her ſelf, that ſhe might be qualified to receive the Benefit of the ſacred Relicks he had brought;* in Order to which, *ſays he,* it is firſt neceſſary that with a contrite Heart you have Recourſe to Confeſſion, that ſo your Soul being heal'd, your Body may more eaſily be cured. *The Lady reply'd,* She deſir'd nothing more. *This was a Signal to the reſt who were in the Room to depart, which they preſently obey'd, and left the two Lovers to their private Devotion.*

The good Father had not long apply'd the Relicks of St. Griffon, *for the Recovery of the devout* Agatha, *when* Ruggieri *was diſcover'd at the Entrance of the Street, who return'd ſooner than he was either deſired or expected. The Lovers were immediately alarm'd, and the Fryar leap'd upon the Floor in ſuch a Fright, that he forgot to take his Breeches, which upon that Occaſion he had thrown by, as an unneceſſary Garment, at the Beds-head.*

The Wench who was in the Secret, open'd the Door, and crying out, that by the Favour of Heaven and of St. Griffon, *her Lady was almoſt wholly recover'd, call'd in the reſt of the Attendants.* Ruggieri *arriv'd at the ſame inſtant, but was not well pleas'd to obſerve, that a* Fryar *had found the Way to his Houſe; nor was he leſs diſturb'd at this new Illneſs of his Wife.* Agatha *perceiv'd his Diſorder by the Change of his Countenance, and immediately told him, that ſhe had been infinitely oblig'd to that holy Father, by whoſe Prayers, together with the Application of the Relicks of St.* Griffon, *ſhe had been ſnatch'd from the Grave. The Good Man was overjoy'd to hear it was no worſe, and correcting himſelf in his own Thoughts for his former Suſpicions, very heartily thank'd the* Fryar, *who after ſome pious Diſcourſe was glad to withdraw.*

Father Nicolo *was not gone far, before he recover'd out of his Fright, and the ſame Moment perceiv'd he had left his Breeches behind him. This put him into a new Concern; he durſt not go back, but comforted himſelf as well as he could, in the Hope that* Agatha *or her Maid would find them firſt, and take Care to prevent further Miſchief. Honeſt* Ruggieri *was now ſitting on the Bed-ſide by his Wife, and ſaying a thouſand kind things to her, when unluckily putting his Hand to adjuſt the Pillow under her Head, he laid hold on one of the Strings, and drew out the Breeches. This threw him into a worſe Fit than any his Wife was accuſtom'd to fall into; he ſtorm'd like a Mad-man, and ask'd how that Appurtenance of the* Fryar *came there?* Agatha, *who had all her Wits awaken'd by her new Amour, reply'd, without the leaſt Heſitation,* that it was what ſhe had told him of. It is to this, ſays ſhe, I owe my Cure. This is the miraculous Garment of St. *Griffon,* which the Holy Father brought, and he has left it here for my greater Security, till the Evening, at which Time he will ſend for it, or fetch it himſelf.

Poor

Poor *Ruggieri*, hearing ſo ready and unexpected an Anſwer, believed, or pretended to believe her, and retired. The truſty Wench was now diſpatch'd on a new Errand, to deſire the Father to ſend for his Relicks. She underſtood her Buſineſs, and acquainted Fryar *Nicolo* with all that had paſs'd. The Fryar, preſs'd by the Neceſſity of the Affair, went to the Warden of the Houſe, and confeſſing the whole Intriegue, begged that he would help him out in this Extremity. The Warden ſharply reprov'd him for his Negligence; but ſaid there was no Time to be loſt, and ſomething muſt be thought of to ſave the Reputation of the Order. He therefore cauſed the Chapter-Bell to be rung, and the Fryars being all aſſembled, he inform'd them, that Heaven had that Day wrought a moſt remarkable Miracle, by Virtue of St. *Griffon*'s Breeches, in the Houſe of *Ruggieri*, the Phyſician. In ſhort, he related to them the Particulars, and perſwaded them to go and fetch back the Holy Garment, in a ſolemn Proceſſion.

The Fryars were now drawn up in Order, and with a Croſs carry'd before them, and the Warden at their Head, holding the Tabernacle of the Altar in his Hand, march'd two and two in profound Silence to *Ruggieri*'s Houſe. The Doctor met them at the Door, and demanded the Reaſon of this ſolemn Viſit. The Warden told him, *They were oblig'd by the Rules of their Order, to ſend their Relicks privately to ſuch diſtreſs'd Perſons as demanded the Uſe of them; that if thro' the Sins of the Patient, the Relicks had no Effect, they were to fetch them as privately back; but when a manifeſt Miracle was wrought, they were to bring them home with decent Ceremony, to publiſh the Miracle, and finally to record it in Form in the Regiſter of their Convent.* Ruggieri now underſtood their Buſineſs, and expreſs'd himſelf overjoy'd at the Honour which was done him. He told the Fathers they were all welcome, and deſiring the Warden, and Father *Nicolo* to follow him, he led them to his Wife's Chamber. The good Lady, who, it may be ſuppos'd, was not aſleep in this Juncture, held the Breeches in her Hand, bound decently up in a perfum'd Napkin, which the Warden having open'd, kiſs'd them with profound Reverence; and having caus'd them to be kiſs'd in like Manner by all who were in the Room, he put them in the Tabernacle he had brought for that purpoſe, and gave the Signal to his Fraternity, to return in the ſame Order.

The Fathers ſet forward in greater Solemnity than before, and ſinging an Anthem, march'd round the City, accompany'd with a numberleſs Croud, and then placing the Relick on the Altar of their Chappel, left it there, as an Object of Devotion. *Ruggieri* was zealous to promote the Reverence of the People to this pious Order, and with no little Oſtentation, acquainted all Perſons, where-ever he came, of the aſtoniſhing Miracle wrought on his Wife, by the Breeches of St. *Griffon*.

Dublin: April 22. On Saturday laſt the Maſters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Corporation of Weavers, preſented a Memorial to their Excellencies, the Lords Juſtices, ſetting forth, that the Weaving-Trade has been ſo very bad for ſeveral Months paſt, that great Numbers of them, who had nothing but their Labour to ſupport their Families, have been forc'd to turn common Beggars, and others who are aſham'd to beg, are reduced to the Neceſſity of feeding on Grains, and Blood from the Slaughter-houſes, *&c.* and the Number of theſe diſtreſſed Workmen is ſo great, and the Food they are obliged to take to preſerve them from ſtarving, is of ſuch a Nature, that unleſs they meet with ſome ſpeedy Relief, there is too much Reaſon to apprehend this City may ſuffer from the infectious Diſtempers which uſually attend Perſons under their unhappy Circumſtances: That the Decay of their Trade is in a great Meaſure to be imputed to the Diſcouragement thrown upon it by Perſons of Fortune and Diſtinction, not wearing our own Manufactures, and hope that their Excellencies will recommend their unhappy Caſe to his Majeſty's Bounty, or otherwiſe give ſuch Encouragement to the Trade of this Kingdom, and to the wearing of our own Manufacturies, as they in their great Wiſdom ſhall think fit.

London: May 30.

Tueſday Evening the Corpſe of one Sarah Rogers, a Beggar-woman, was interr'd by the Company of Upholders, from her late Habitation in the Broad Way at Weſtminſter, in St. Margaret's Church, in a very rich Coffin. She is reputed to have died worth 1500*l.*

Mr. Philips, in Great Queen ſtreet, has invented a Machine, or Wind-Grate, which infallibly prevents the ſmoaking of the Chimney in which it is fix'd, and all Smell of Smoak or Soot: When there is no Fire in it, it blows up a Fire in a few Minutes, without any Trouble; it warms Perſons all over alike, in any Part of the Room; and if the Room be found too hot at any Time, by a very eaſy Motion it ſhifts the Air, and brings in freſh as it ſhall be found requiſite: It can air and [illegible] Rooms on the ſame Floor over, to any Degree a very much preſerve Paintable Furniture from all Damney ſhould at at any Time inſtantly be put out by one may be removed from one Room another at any Time. Many have ſeen it have much approved curious and uſeful Machine the invented. A Warrant is already moſt gracious Majeſty for a Patentor, for the ſole making and ſaid Machine.

We have a melancholy Account ceſterſhire, that a contagious there, which kills People very ſometimes whole Families die by ſwellings in the Throat, the Body, which except they ple off in 24 Hours: They h

Village of Ashton Underhill (near Tewksbury) above 45 Persons since Christmas last out of the Innabitants, whose Number did not exceed 100; these are found to be more than have dy'd in that Place in 20 Years past.

Most of the other Neighbouring Villages are in the same miserable Condition, and that with Poverty and Sickness, the People are in the most deplorable Circumstances, few Labourers are able to work, and those that do, have double Wages; the Poor's Rates are excessive, being above seven Shillings in the Pound in several Parishes, which, together with the Scarcity of Corn, has driven the Farmers to such Despair, that several Farms in that rich Country are left on the Gentlemen's Hands, and very few are able to pay any Rent.

They write from Grantham, Stilton, and other Towns in Lincolnshire, that great Numbers of People die there suddenly of great Swellings in the Throat, it carrying them off in 24 Hours Time.

Letters from Totness and other Parts of Devonshire, mention a Distemper among the Cattle, which seizes them first in the Head, and then they go blind; some are recovered by immediate bleeding, but it leaves them extreamly weak, and unfit for Labour.

Philadelphia:

We are very credibly inform'd, that a few Days since, a worthless contemptible Fellow named *Tom Shad*, came to Demand a small Debt of one of his Debtors, before it was due, and violently threatning the poor Man, he was submissively entreated *to have a little Patience in this Scarcity of Money; that as he had paid him punctually considerable Sums before, and as He (the Creditor) did not seem likely to continue long in this World, it might be some Recommendation to the Almighty, for him to show some Mercy with respect (to giving Time) to an honest industrious Trader who had Substance, (tho' not Cash at present) to pay him.* Upon this Shad reply'd, *If Fifty People were to owe him Money, and had it not to pay, he would* [illegible] *if it were possible to be done,* Execution *against 'em all, the next Hour.*

Truth, 'tis mention'd not [illegible] design to *torment the merciless* [illegible] *time*, as it is, that the Monster own Picture, blush, be asham'd [illegible] ore *his polluted Soul* leaves its rotten [illegible] oes to *its Place*, that he may find [illegible] han he has shown to others; in [illegible] h we give him this Friendly No-

Shad,
is bad,
all canker'd with Evil;
as these
Disease)
Name stink *like the D---l.*

Entred Inwards, Sept. 4. 1729.

Brig. *Hope*, John Murdock, *from Barbadoes.*
Sloop *Tace*, Benjamin Hoskins *from* Antegoa.
Scooner *Dolphin*, Rich. Fortescue, *from* Cape-Fear.
Shallop *Somerset*, Solomon Crosper, *from* Maryl.

Entred Outwards.

Sloop *William*, James White, *to* S. Christophers.
---*Mary Anne*, John Dorrel, *to* Jamaica.
Brig. *Hannah Hope*, William Annis, *to* Jamaica.
Sloop *Blessing*, Jeremiah Penisto[illegible], *to* St. Christ.

Cleared.

Sloop *Rose*, Joseph Wilson, *for* Barbadoes.
---*Expedition*, George King, *to* Jamaica.
---*Hunter*, Crispin Hale, *to* St. Christophers.
---*Enterprize*, William Burch, *to* Barbadoes.
---*Eliz. & Mary*, Rich. Evans, *to* Boston.

WHereas *Joseph Robins* of the County of Monmouth, Yeoman, being in Custody of *William Nicholls*, Esq; High Sheriff of the said County, did on Tuesday the 19th of this Instant in the Night, break the Goal of the said County, and an Escape from the said Sheriff did make: The said Sheriff doth hereby promise Ten Pounds for a Reward, besides reasonable Charges, to any Person or Persons that shall take up, and so secure the said *Joseph Robins*, that he may have him again, he being a tall slender Man, thin faced, bottle-nosed, light lank Hair, and about thirty Years of Age.

Freehold, in *Monmouth-County*, *Aug.* 23. 1729. *William Nichols.*

RAlph Sandiford Shopkeeper, over-against the Court-House in *Philadelphia*, intends for *England* in two Months, therefore desires all Persons indebted to him to come and discharge the same to prevent the Expence of Legal Prosecutions.

Also any Person who have any Demands on him, are desired to come and receive the same.

In the mean time he is for selling off his Shop and Houshold Goods either by Wholesale or Retail, which consists of Bedding and Pewter, and other Necessaries.

Also Looking-Glasses of most Sizes, and Bottles of all Sizes from Gallons to Half-Gills.

Also good Wine, Rum, Sugar, Melasses, Salt, and most Sorts of Fruit and Grocery, and Drugs for Dying.

Also if any Person will take the whole, may have two Months Credit on good Security.

Ralph Sandiford.

N. B. *I take* New-castle-Money *for all Sorts of* English *Goods, and will sell Remnants cheap.*

VERY good Live-Geese Feathers to be sold by *Evan Powel*, in Chesnut-street, next Door but one to *Andrew Hamilton*, Esq;

PHIA: *Printed by* Samuel Keimer, *where Subscriptions are taken* [illegible] *per, at* Ten Shillings *a Year, and Advertisements inserted at* Three